

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 186754

FOLLOWING SENT SECSTATE WASHDC SEPTEMBER 18, 1973 IS RE-
PEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

P 181247Z SEP 73

FM CINCPACREP GUAM/TTPI

TO SECSTATE WASH DC

C O N F I D E N T I A L

E.O. 11652

TAGS: PFOR, FR, AUS, NZ, UK, FJ, WS

SECSTATE FOR EA/ANP

SUBJECT: 13TH SOUTH PACIFIC CONFERENCE; RESOLUTION ON NUCLEAR TESTING

1. (C) SUMMARY/ SOUTH PACIFIC CONFERENCE PASSED RESOLUTION SEPTEMBER
18 WHICH "NOTES WITH ALARM" FRENCH FAILURE TO HEED PROTESTS AGAINTS
HER NUCLEAR TESTING, AND "STRONGLY CONDEMNS TESTS AND URGES FRANCE TO
RECONSIDER HER POLICY. "RESOLUTION ALSO" CONDEMNS ALL NUCLEAR TESTS I
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THE FUTURE WHEREVER THEY MAY BE CARRIED OUT", AND DIRECTS THAT VIEWS
OF CONFERENCE BE MADE KNOWN TO UNITED NATIONS. CONFERENCE ALSO PASSED
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RESOLUTION FAVORING IN GENERAL CHANGES IN SPC ADVOCATED IN AUSTRALIAN

PROPOSAL. GUIDANCE REQUESTED: APPROPRIATE U.S. POSITION IN EVENT NUC-

LEAR

TESTING RESOLUTION COMES UP FOR CONSIDERATION OF SESSION BEGINNING
SEPTEMBER 24. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) SUBJECT OF NUCLEAR TESTING FIRST BROACHED IN CONFERENCE DURING
ADDRESS MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 17 BY J.A. WALDING, NEW ZEALAND MINISTER
OF OVERSEAS TRADE AND ASSOCIATE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND LEADER

OF NZ DELEGATION. WALDING AVOIDED MENTION OF FRANCE, BUT STATED "NEW
ZEALAND WILL VIGOROUSLY OPPOSE NUCLEAR TESTING, PARTICULARLY ATMOSPHERE

TESTING, BY ANY NATION ANYWHERE". WALDING ALSO MADE REFERENCE
TO SUBJECT WHICH IS UNDERSTOOD TO BE PARTICULAR INTEREST OF PM KIRK:
"SPECIAL EFFORTS SHOULD BE MADE TO SEE IF WE CAN ACHIEVE A NUCLEAR FREE

ZONE IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC".

3. (U) SUBJECT NOT TAKEN UP AGAIN UNTIL AFTERNOON SESSION, AFTER
CONSIDERATION OF WORK PROGRAM. COOK ISLANDS DELEGATE RELATED NUCLEAR
TESTING TO "CONSERVATION OF NATURE," REFERRING TO FRANCE'S "RUTHLESS,
UNKIND, AND CRUEL" ACTIONS IN THIS REGARD. FRENCH SENIOR COMMISSIONER
HENRY NETTRE OBJECTED THAT CONFERENCE NOT QUALIFIED TO DISCUSS AND
THAT TESTING A MATTER OF FRENCH INTERNAL POLICY, BUT CONFERENCE VOTED
UNANIMOUSLY TO DISCUSS SUBJECT. COOK ISLANDS INTRODUCED RESOLUTION TO
CONDEMN TESTING AND URGE FRANCE TO RECONSIDER POLICY. DURING SUBSEQUENT

ACRIMONIOUS EXCHANGES, PAPUA NEW GUINEA DELEGATE ASKED NETTRE TO "SHUT

UP". WALDING TOOK FLOOR TO ADVOCATE DISCUSSION OF SUBJECT, AND ASKED
NETTRE TO REMAIN TO DISCUSS ISSUE. NETTRE NEVERTHELESS WALKED OUT,
WHEREUPON COOK ISLANDS DELEGATE TRANSMITTED MESSAGE FROM HIS P M,
THAT "IF THE FRENCH COMMISSIONER WALKED OUT, THEN IT IS THE DUTY OF
THE PACIFIC NATIONS TO HELP HIM WALK OUT OF THE CONFERENCE AND OUT OF
THE PACIFIC." SESSION ADJOURNED SHORTLY THEREAFTER.

4. (U) SUBSEQUENT MANEUVERING ON SEPTEMBER 17 AND 18 EVENTUALLY
FOCUSSED ON ISSUE OF WHETHER IT MORE IMPORTANT TO POINT FINGER
DIRECTLY
AT FRANCE, OR TO FIND COMPROMISE WHICH WOULD MAINTAIN UNITY OF SPC AND

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POSSIBLY BE ACCEPTABLE TO FRANCE. ALTERNATIVE RESOLUTION PROPOSED BY
NEW CALEDONIA DID NOT NAME FRANCE, AND CONDEMNED "ALL NUCLEAR TESTS."
ANOTHER ALTERNATIVE OFFERED BY WESTERN SAMOA ALSO DID NOT NAME FRANCE,

REFERRED TO ATMOSPHERIC TESTING ONLY, AND APPEARED TO BE MOST CAREFULLY

DRAFTED OF THE THREE.

5. (C) UNITED STATES COMMENTS ON THE FLOOR WERE LIMITED TO POSITION S

ET

FORTH IN POSITION PAPER PREPARED IN WASHINGTON. U.S. INFORMAL EFFORTS DIRECTED TOWARD ADVANCING THOSE ELEMENTS CONTAINED IN W. SAMOAN RESOLUTION; I.E., GENERAL LANGUAGE AGAINST ATMOSPHERIC TESTING BY ANY COUNTRY. AMONG OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES, UK LOBBYING EFFORTS GENERALLY PARALLEL TO US, AUSTRALIA REMAINED COMPLETELY ALOOF (REGARDING ISSUE AN "ISLAND AFFAIR") WHILE NZ URGED THAT CONDEMNATION DIRECTED AT FRANCE

AND AT ALL NUCLEAR TESTING BE MAINTAINED. IN FLOOR PRESENTATION, AUSTRALIA CALLED ATTENTION TO CONTINUED ATMOSPHERIC TESTING BY BOTH CHINA AND FRANCE, BUT ASSERTED THAT FALLOUT, "POSSIBLY IDENTIFIED AS RESULTING FROM THE FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTING," HAS BEEN DETECTED ALL OVER

AUSTRALIA.

6. (C) FLOOR COMMENTS OF GUAM AND AMERICAN SAMOA DELEGATIONS GENERALLY

HELPFUL TO U.S. POSITION. TTPI DELEGATE SASAO HARUO GAVE RESTRAINED BUT

QUIETLY DRAMATIC PRESENTATION CITING TTPI EXPERIENCE WITH TESTING, "ALL

OF IT BAD", AND REFERRING TO CONTINUING MEDICAL PROBLEMS RESULTING FROM TESTS "MORE THAN 20 YEARS AGO." TTPI AND GUAM ADVOCATED THAT ANY RESOLUTION INCLUDE ALL COUNTRIES, AND AM. SAMOA URGED SPECIFYING ATMOSPHERIC AND UNDERSEA TESTING AS OPPOSED TO ALL TESTING. COOK ISLANDS

AND FIJI, HOWEVER, TOOK LEAD IN DEMANDING THAT FRANCE BE NAMED, AND ISSUE FORCED TO A VOTE BY CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN AFTERNOON SEPTEMBER

18.

7. (U) INITIAL ROLL CALL ON ALL THREE RESOLUTIONS FAILED TO OBTAIN NECESSARY VOTE, BUT COOK/FIJI MOTION CARRIED AFTER ABSTAINERS FORCED TO VOTE. FINAL VOTE WAS 10 FOR, 5 AGAINST, 2 ABSENT -- JUST ENOUGH TO PASS. AMERICAN SAMOA VOTED CONSISTENTLY IN FAVOR OF MORE MODERATE
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RESOLUTIONS AND AGAINST COOK/FIJI VERSION, WHILE TTPI OPPOSED MODERATE

VERSIONS AND VOTED FOR COOK/FIJI MOTION. GUAM UNEXPLAINABLY VOTED FOR

ALL THREE RESOLUTIONS. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF RESOLUTION: QUOTE
THIS CONFERENCE RECOGNIZES THAT MARINE RESOURCES CONSTITUTE ONE OF THE

MAJOR EXPLOITABLE RESOURCES OF THE PACIFIC OCEAN AND IS OF EQUAL SIGNIFICANCE TO ALL COUNTRIES IN THE REGION. AND BEING AWARE THAT THE PROGRESS OF CIVILISATION AND INDUSTRIALISATION IS PLACING THIS RESOURCE

IN SERIOUS JEOPARDY BECAUSE OF POLLUTION IN ALL ITS FORMS AND MORE PARTICULARLY TO AIR POLLUTION DUE TO RADIO-ACTIVITY FALLOUT. NOTES WITH CONSIDERABLE ALARM THE ABSOLUTE UNWILLINGNESS OF FRANCE TO ACCEPT

THE STRONG AND CONTINUOUS PROTEST AGAINST ATMOSPHERIC NUCLEAR TESTING IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC MADE BY SEVERAL COUNTRIES IN THE REGION. STRONGLY

CONDEMNS TESTS AND URGES FRANCE TO RECONSIDER HER POLICY SO AS TO ENABLE

THE SOUTH PACIFIC TO CONTINUE TO BE A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT FOR ITS PEOPLES, AND FURTHER CONDEMNS ALL NUCLEAR TESTS IN THE FUTURE WHEREVER

THEY MAY BE CARRIED OUT. DIRECTS THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO COMMUNICATE THE FEELINGS OF THIS CONFERENCE TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED

NATIONS WITH THE REQUEST THAT THE VIEWS OF THIS CONFERENCE BE MADE KNOWN TO THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

END QUOTE.

8. (C) U.S. DELEGATION IS NOT CONVINCED THAT RESOLUTION REPRESENTS WILL

OF CONFERENCE FOR TWO REASONS. COOK/FIJI RESOLUTION CAME TO VOTE AFTER

OTHER TWO HAD FAILED, AND SOME DELEGATIONS MAY HAVE FELT IT WAS LAST CHANCE. MORE IMPORTANTLY, IT WAS DISCOVERED AFTER ADJOURNING THAT CHAIRMAN INNOCENTLY PERMITTED CRUCIAL MISUNDERSTANDING TO PREVAIL ON NUMBER OF VOTES NECESSARY TO CARRY MOTION; ABSTAINERS WHO WERE SUBSEQUENTLY FORCED TO VOTE MIGHT HAVE VOTED DIFFERENTLY WITH PROPER UNDERSTANDING. AT SENIOR COMMISSIONER'S DINNER TONIGHT, U.S. COMMISSIONER WILL URGE CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN TO REOPEN VOTING ON ALL CONFIDENTIAL

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THREE RESOLUTIONS.

9. (C) NETTRE HAS ADVISED THAT IN VIEW OF RESOLUTION, HE WILL NOT ATTEND REMAINDER OF CONFERENCE, BUT WILL RETURN TO CHAIR SESSION BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 24. SESSION WILL NEED TO ACT ON THE RESOLUTION, AND NETTRE CAN BE EXPECTED TO ATTEMPT TO QUASH IT.

10. (C) IN OTHER CONFERENCE ACTION, A RESOLUTION ON THE FUTURE STATUS OF THE CONFERENCE WAS PASSED IN THE NUMB AFTERMATH OF THE NUCLEAR TESTING DEBATE. THE RESOLUTION CALLS FOR REVISION OF THE CANBERRA AGREEMENT BY PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES, AND PENDING SUCH REVISION MODIFICATION OF EXISTING PRACTICES BY CONVENTION OR UNDERSTANDINGS. VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS ARE NOT MENTIONED, AUSTRALIA HAVING WITHDRAWN PROPOSALS ON THIS SUBJECT. ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES RECOMMENDED ACCORD GENERALLY WITH THOSE IN ORIGINAL AUSTRALIAN PROPOSAL. SENIOR COMMISSIONERS HAVE AGREED INFORMALLY THAT CONSULATATIONS BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS FOR PURPOSE OF EFFECTING CHANGES SHOULD BE HELD, AND THAT EARLY 1974 MEETING, PROBABLY IN WELLINGTON, WILL BE RECOMMENDED TO RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS.

11. (C) GUIDANCE REQUESTED. ASSUMING THAT PRESENT RESOLUTION ON NUCLEAR TESTING STANDS, EVEN AFTER REOPENING OF ISSUE ON SEPTEMBER 19,

REQUEST GUIDANCE ON U.S. POSITION DURING MEETING OF SESSION WHICH

BEGINS

SEPTEMBER 24. AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, AND FIJI CAN BE EXPECTED TO FAVOR

AND FRANCE TO OPPOSE. NAURU AND WESTERN SAMOA VOTED FOR RESOLUTION IN
CONFERENCE, BUT FINAL POSITION MAY CHANGE. UK MAY OPPOSE OR ABSTAIN.

U.S. DELEGATION HERE FAVORS ABSTENTION RATHER THAN NEGATIVE VOTE, IN
VIEW OF EXPRESSED WILL OF CONFERENCE AND IN VIEW OF VOTES IN FAVOR OF
RESOLUTION BY GUAM AND TTPI. LANGE SENDS.

GDS-81. UNQUOTE RUSH

NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHED SUVA.

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